

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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R 262012Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3309

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 1241

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BTRA, CA

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF ELEANOR WAINSTEIN

REF: STATE 79765

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED PROPOSED VISIT TO OTTAWA AND MONTREAL WITH EXTAFF USA DIVISION DIRECTOR MACLELLAN APRIL 24. EMBOFF NOTED THAT STUDY OF GOC EXPERIENCE DURING FLQ EMERGENCY WAS PART OF WORLD-WIDE STUDY OF TERRORISM BY RAND CORPORATION ON BEHALF OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND THAT WAINSTEIN IS CLEARED FOR TOP SECRET. EMBOFF ASKED FOR SUGGESTIONS AND HELP IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN OTTAWA AND MONTREAL. MACLELLAN OBSERVED THAT STUDY APPEARED A MOST USEFUL EXERCISE, BUT POINTED OUT THAT SUBJECT WAS STILL VERY SENSITIVE IN CANADA AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO SEEK APPROVAL FROM OTHER MORE SENIOR OFFICIALS.

2. ON APRIL 24, MACLELLAN TOLD EMBASSY THAT EXTAFF WOULD HAVE TO HAVE VERY CONSIDERABLY MORE INFORMATION BEFORE IT COULD AGREE TO WAINSTEIN VISIT TO OTTAWA OR MONTREAL. SPECIFICALLY, MACLELLAN ASKED ABOUT SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF STUDY, WHAT SORT OF AUTHORITIES WAINSTEIN WOULD WISH TO INTERVIEW AND QUESTIONS SHE WOULD ASK. EXTAFF PARTICULARLY CONCERNED LEST U.S. STUDY OF THIS SENSITIVE MATTER BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, WITH POSSIBLE ADVERSE POLITICAL REACTIONS. MACLELLAN NOTED FURTHER THAT MANY OR MOST POLICE, RCMP, AND DEFENSE OFFICIALS WHO DEALT WITH 1971 FLQ CRISIS HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED OR HAD RETIRED.

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EM EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT WAINSTEIN COULD DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WITH MACLELLAN OR OTHERS IN OTTAWA. MACLELLAN REPLIED THAT FOR PRESENT EXTAFF WOULD PREFER SHE NOT RPT NOT COME TO OTTAWA, AND OFFERED TO CONSIDER REPLYING TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS.

4. EMBASSY HAS ALSO DISCUSSED VISIT INFORMALLY WITH RCMP SECURITY BRANCH, WHERE OFFICIALS WERE MARKEDLY UNENTHUSIASTIC, DOUBTFUL THAT RCMP WOULD WISH MEET WITH WAINSTEIN, AND CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF PUBLICITY.

5. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF CONTINUED SENSITIVITY ON THIS ISSUE. GOC IS STILL SUBJECT TO CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM FOR ITS HANDLING OF FLQ AFFAIR. WITHOUT MORE INFORMATION AND SOLID JUSTIFICATION, IT WOULD SEEM PREFERABLE IF WAINSTEIN GIVE CONSIDERATION TO SUBMITTING WRITTEN QUESTIONS, RATHER THAN PURSUING REQUEST TO CONDUCT ON SITE RESEARCH.
PORTER

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